

Please oppose this legislation - its intent may be to stop piracy, but it will not do so. It will only punish those, like myself, who only seek "fair use" rights.

Do not believe the alarmist claims of the broadcasting industry. There was a similar outcry to ban VCRs, and look at the result of NOT doing so - millions of people bought VCRs, began purchasing VHS tapes to form a personal video library, and a huge business opportunity was created in the form of video rental stores.) There is no reason whatsoever to believe that digital content poses any more of a threat than the VCR did. Pirates will find a way - the answer to this problem is not in the restriction of technological capabilities, but rather in the enforcement of existing laws. If you side with the broadcasting industry on this issue, you risk a severe economic impact. How much revenue would have been lost, to date, if the VCR had been banned many years ago?

I am a law-abiding consumer who believes that piracy should be prevented and prosecuted. However, if theoretical prevention comes at the cost of prohibiting me from making legal, personal use of my content, then the FCC should be working to protect all consumers rather than enable those who would restrict consumer rights. In the case of the broadcast flag, it seems that it will have little effect on piracy. With file-sharing networks, a TV program has only to be cracked once, and it will propagate rapidly across the Internet. So, while I may be required to purchase consumer electronic devices that cost more and allow me to do less, piracy will not be diminished.

In closing, I urge you to require the content industry to demonstrate that its proposed technologies will allow for all legal uses and will actually achieve the stated goal of preventing piracy. If they cannot, I urge you not to mandate the broadcast flag.